148th Longines Kentucky Oaks

Post-Race News Conference
Friday, May 6, 2022
Churchill Downs

JIM MULVIHILL: All right, everybody. We are very pleased to be joined by the winning connections of the Longines Kentucky Oaks. Of course, we have winning trainer D. Wayne Lukas, his fifth Oaks victory, tying Woody Stevens for the most in the history of the race. His last was 32 years ago, Seaside Attraction in 1990. Our winning jockey, Luis Saez, he's riding the next two races. He's going to join us separately after the last race, and we have Robert and Stacy Mitchell of Briland Farm. This is their homebred who they pulled out of the Keeneland sale in September 2020 and I'm sure very grateful that they did.

Wayne, I would like to start with you since we don't have our rider here. Can you just describe the race to us from your perspective?

D. WAYNE LUKAS: I wish Brian would have heard us. We had to walk across in the rain. This cheap cowboy hat gets wet and then the next thing you know it starts sagging.

I thought the race unfolded pretty much like what we expected. Being in the 1 hole, we didn't have a lot of options. But down the backside, I told Luis [Saez] not to get too creative on the turn and make his move if he was going to get in position on the backside. Of course, when he started to do that, I felt pretty good because I thought once he got to him, like he did, she accelerated. She breaks her heart when she goes by him.

JIM MULVIHILL: Tell us about what you saw when she did range up on him with very little urging. She just kind of --

D. WAYNE LUKAS: I said to my wife, Here we go (laughter). I thought she would move out up there, watching it here now. She's got a beautiful stride. Pretty good.

JIM MULVIHILL: And tell us just about your feelings of winning the Kentucky Oaks again after 32 years, your fifth one. How does it feel?

D. WAYNE LUKAS: It feels great. But I've said all week that the thing about it that's clear is when we win the first one, we think it's us and we get all puffed up and we think we've really done something.

After you win one and you think it a little while, the real satisfaction is when you can put these people that work with these horses and raise them and so forth in that position. That's always been our M.O. going into it. After we won that first one Blush With Pride, then you think, boy, we did everything.

But the real joy of doing this is to let these owners have the opportunity to enjoy this and get that thrill.

And I'm really thankful for the opportunity to train for you.

JIM MULVIHILL: Wayne, can you talk about her progression this spring and also trying the Arkansas Derby and how that ended up playing out?

D. WAYNE LUKAS: Well, she's a big, rangy filly. We were trying to find what she wanted and how we could develop her in her best interest. So we let her grow a little bit.

I told Rob that I was feeding her everything I could find and she was still staying pretty light. But she started to pick up. We didn't get a good trip the first time. We didn't get a good trip the next time, but she kept trying. And we knew that the talent was there. We just needed to get a clean trip.

Rob and I talked about that right in the paddock. We said, really, we haven't had a great trip. Maybe we'll get one today.

As she started to develop, the thing that developed in her was that devastating kick. When she eyeballs them -- and Luis [Saez] was concerned, too. I told him, I said, don't be trying to do too much because she'll be -- she'll run right out from underneath you. She's really got that devastating kick. So we tried to develop that and get some relaxation with it.

JIM MULVIHILL: Wayne, we noticed that your whole family was here. Laurie [Lukas] is here with you, but also kids and grandkids. Just talk about what it means to have everybody with you today.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: Well, we got my grandson and granddaughter, two fiancees. We got some weddings coming up in the (Kentucky Derby) Museum in September. That's Brady Lukas, his fiancee Dani, David Roy, my granddaughter Kelly.

And so it's been a little bit of a treat. That's the small family we have. You know, we lost Jeff and those are the only two grandchildren we have. So I think they're marrying up. They're doing pretty good on that, too (laughter).

JIM MULVIHILL: Robert and Stacy, we would love to hear from you. Congratulations. Briland Farm. Tell us about how you're feeling after the Kentucky Oaks.

ROB MITCHELL: Once Wayne talks, there's nothing anyone else can say (laughter). I mean, he's so eloquent. And we're just simple country folk. We are so blessed to have this filly. I want to be worthy of her because she has done such a good job.

When I was in school in Louisville years ago, we went together to the races for the first time at Churchill Downs. I didn't dream of owning a horse. Never occurred to me. It wasn't like something I was striving for. And to be here today, we've worked so hard. My wife has worked so hard. We're, like, on the farm. We live on the farm. We fixed the fence, mow the fields.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: He actually helps train her, too. He calls often (laughter).

ROB MITCHELL: And that's why it's been 30-something years since he's won because I call him.

But no, we've been very blessed to have her. And Wayne [Lukas] and the whole team that he has has done a great job with her. I just can't believe we're here today.

I mean, we put so much time into thinking of the breeding and the selection of the stallion. And then to have -- every foal that we have ever raised was born on our farm. I have nothing against the syndicates. I think the syndicates are good for horse racing, but we have never bought a racehorse, ever. Every horse we've raised was born on our farm. We bought some broodmares, raised their fillies and their fillies. I still have Secret Oath's dam and grandmother on our farm.

STACY MITCHELL: She's 32, 33. She'll live there until she dies.

ROB MITCHELL: So that's just our way of doing it. Other people have other ways. That's fine. But if we raise a horse, we foaled it and we delivered the foal itself.

STACY MITCHELL: We have invested our heart and our soul into that horse.

ROB MITCHELL: She usually sleeps in the barn and delivers them.

STACY MITCHELL: I call him when the water breaks. (Laughter).

JIM MULVIHILL: Stacy, what do you remember about the night that Secret Oath was born?

STACY MITCHELL: Gosh, you know, not necessarily any specific night. But you always get a little nervous. Anything can happen. We put her in the sale. She didn't draw any interest. We brought her home and that was more panicking than the night she was born, you know?

We're very blessed that the clouds and the heavens worked out just right and she didn't sell for a reason. And here we are today.

ROB MITCHELL: But she looks like her mother and her sister. She just kind of had that tall, thin, arrogant like.

STACY MITCHELL: Tall, thin, narrow.

ROB MITCHELL: That's not the classic commercial horse. And I thought, well, if she looks like her mother, her mother placed in five graded stakes and won a number of graded stakes. Why don't we just pull her out and keep her?

D. WAYNE LUKAS: Rob, Bob Baffert called me and he said that after he watched her run a couple times that she really typified Arrogate. Even her looks, gliding motion, everything, her acceleration. He said that she really, really looks like one of his foals. And I thought at that time it was pretty complimentary because I thought maybe if we can get even close to that level, we'll be all right.

STACY MITCHELL: Yeah.

JIM MULVIHILL: Robert, Wayne mentioned you like to be decision-making around the horse. So can we hear from your perspective about this spring trying the Arkansas Derby, the conversations that went into that and where you ended up?

ROB MITCHELL: Wayne and I are on the same page on that. She won three races in Arkansas. But when she won the Honeybee, which was a Grade III, she had won three consecutive races by 20-something lengths. And we knew we had enough points to get in the Oaks. And that was always our goal. Our goal was to get in the Oaks.

But then the Fantasy is also a Grade III. And as a farm who breeds their own stock, well, I've already had a Grade III-winning mare. If the Fantasy were Grade II, I might have gone in it. Or Grade I, we might have gone in it. But you have the Arkansas Derby which is a Grade I at $1.25 million, which is the same purse as the Oaks today.

STACY MITCHELL: And at the distance.

ROB MITCHELL: Same distance. I wanted to see how she would do the distance. And I thought number-wise, we stood up. We never planned to go to the Kentucky Derby.

STACY MITCHELL: The media was wrong about that. We never intended to go to the Derby.

ROB MITCHELL: Yeah, we incentivized to go to the Oaks. But the $1.25 million is a pretty good incentive, and it's a Grade I. And we were the favorite.

And I think, you know -- I don't know, people smarter than me say we ran a little bit farther than the winner. And they say Arkansas maybe wasn't that tough this year, but I'm looking at some Arkansas horses tomorrow.

JIM MULVIHILL: We'll take questions from the room. I will ask one more in the meantime. Now that she has held her own against colts and then performed the way she did today, what do you think about the rest of the year? And that's for any of you.

STACY MITCHELL: I think she needs a day off (laughter).

And I think that she will tell us where she needs to go with Wayne's consideration.

JIM MULVIHILL: Anything to add, Wayne?

D. WAYNE LUKAS: The committee has spoken (laughter).

Q. Is the Preakness an option?

D. WAYNE LUKAS: Yes, it is. It's an option. the Black-Eyed Susan would be an option. All of these things are out there for us all the time. When you got a talented horse, you need to look at everything, try to develop their career and get them to a championship level.

So it's been done before with Rachel Alexandra and some of these other horses, so it's not totally out of the question.

Rob and I and Stacy will get together. Like Stacy said, we'll let her get her feet underneath her a little bit and see how it was.

I didn't think it was a typically hard race on her today. I thought it was more business-like, more of a workman-like race. We'll see.

She looked pretty -- she wasn't blowing very hard even though it was a wet track and probably pulled a little bit out of her. But I like what I saw today in the winner's circle.

Q. Wayne, at this point in your career, simple question: What did this mean to you?

D. WAYNE LUKAS: Well, again, it means more to put them, like I said, where they're at. But every one of these -- you know, when you're 86, going to be 87 in a few months, you know that there are not a lot of them in front of you yet. And I'm still getting up the same as I did when I was 40 and still on that pony every morning.

And we got good 2-year-olds. So I just want to get up and have a Secret Oath or something to look forward to when I get to the barn every day.

I always say at clinics when you have passion for anything, you eliminate the excuses. When you got passion for something, you'll stay up all night, go without food, drive, sleep, whatever to get where you want to go. And when you have these fillies that show up in your life, like this one or a colt, it's such an incentive and drive for me.

And I would like to take these guys on out here. There's a bunch of these guys that are dear friends and there's some young ones that I think are still learning the game. And I enjoy the competition in the big arena.

Q. I feel like Secret Oath was kind of coasting under the radar all week.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: Coasting?

Q. Just kind of flying under the radar.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: That's a good description of her. She does coast (laughter).

You know, here's the thing, she comes out of Arkansas. But now the morning line comes out on Monday. And Mike Battaglia has been doing this for years. So here's how that works. Mike Battaglia was born in a stall over at Lexington, so he has to automatically take the Ashland winner and make it the favorite (laughter).

Then he goes to the second place horse, and he's asked to please some farm that he worked on as a hot walker as a kid. That's the second choice.

Then the third choice he has to pick somebody that he went to school with and hung out with at Malone's bar and then that's the third choice. Now the fourth choice we get to Secret Oath. That's how that works (laughter).

Q. That means you guys made some money then.

ROB MITCHELL: At the end of the day, it doesn't matter who the favorite is.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: That's exactly right.

ROB MITCHELL: It matters who crosses the finish line at Churchill Downs. The favorite wins a third of the time. How many times in your life are you a favorite and you're the loser two-thirds of the time.

STACY MITCHELL: If you are always the favorite and you win, you have nothing --

D. WAYNE LUKAS: At this level of raising, betting 6-1, 8-1, 7-2, when they get close to the gate, you could care less. You could care less.

I always said in the Derby and the Oaks, if you take an owner and they're going to the gate and just when they walk in you say, "I'll guarantee you the win if you give up the purse," every one of them will say, "Good deal, let's win it." It becomes very secondary.

ROB MITCHELL: I didn't sell her, Wayne.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: That's right. He did not. He had good offers, too.

ROB MITCHELL: I got so many offers, I said, A wealthy man would have sold her. But I'm used to not having any money, so I didn't sell her.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: He's been so nervous all week. He told me he had to go in and do some surgery. I said, If you are nervous and can't sleep, don't be cutting up anybody" (laughter).

Q. You sound like have gained so much perspective from that first win to this one talking about piggybacking off of their joy as well as yours. What else have you taken along that path to incorporate later in your career that makes this more enjoyable?

D. WAYNE LUKAS: Every time you get to one of these where you think you might get to this level, you start to evaluate where you're at and what it would mean and what you're learning from it. And I think back to the mid '80s or early '80s and what we were doing with those horses. I would be embarrassed to go over it now. The experience factor is tremendous. You keep evaluating all the time.

You have to read the horse. That's the secret of training horses. Get them every day and read them and find out what they can do best and then flaunt it.

So you continually are learning every day, and they're teaching every day. So as you get older, it doesn't get any easier. You realize how difficult it is and how fragile they are and where you could be or not be with just a break or a stumble or anything.

So you get a great appreciation for it, and you work towards that goal. And you know that it will be on your resume' somewhere. And I always tell the young guys, get an Oaks on your resume' and get a Derby on your resume' and then we'll all hold hands and go over to Saratoga and have dinner (laughter).

Q. Obviously, Wayne [Lukas] at the peak of his career was a dominant figure. He's not as dominant now. What gives you the confidence to entrust this horse to him?

ROB MITCHELL: Well, okay, so I look at Wayne and I said: Who has he trained? Todd Pletcher. Dallas Stewart. Mark Hennig. Kiaran McLauglin. Who else? Who have I missed? Randy Bradshaw.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: Mike Maker.

ROB MITCHELL: Okay. And Dallas Stewart trained Brad Cox. Now, in your mind -- I won't mention any names. Pick three trainers in your mind and name five trainers that they trained.

STACY MITCHELL: Look at the Derby field.

ROB MITCHELL: See what I'm saying? He hasn't forgotten how to train a horse.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: There's no how-to.

ROB MITCHELL: It's just that young owners don't think that's the way to go. Look at all the Hall of Fame trainers he's trained and the up-and-coming Brad Coxes. And then pick three trainers in your mind and name five people they've trained. That's the way I look at it. And I'm just a country boy.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: The thing about it is, it's interesting. In racing, there's no how-to book. If you go -- if you get Nick Saban up here from Alabama and he's got a room full of coaches, all top Division I coaches, he will go to the blackboard and diagram everything they do on offense and defense, share it with every guy in the room. And so will all the other better coaches.

But in racing, you can't go and find it in the library. There's no book. There's no way to look it up. And we don't share anything (laughter). And most guys do not share anything.

So when we came along, I thought, well, the basketball coach came out in me a little bit and we started with these great young guys. We really recruited good guys, wonderful young men. And we decided that we would teach and share with them. And a lot of nice records fell and a lot of good things happened. And it was -- it was probably as satisfying and maybe as big -- as much of our legacy to have 13 guys we put out there in the game now that are doing so well. They're all like family. We get together every once in a while. It's hilarious. They all tell how they did it this and covered for each other when they screwed up. It's really fun.

ROB MITCHELL: If you train five men that ultimately end up in the hall of fame, that's not an accident.

Q. Wayne, you trained so many hall of fame fillies, champion fillies. These questions aren't fair, but I can't help myself. Who does this filly remind of you from your past list of champions and hall of famers? And why?

D. WAYNE LUKAS: Somebody told me the other day we had 15 Eclipse champion fillies. And I think that's probably accurate. And so now here she comes along, not a champion yet but working on that, on her resume'. And the thing that people ask me how she compares, she compares with any of them.

But what happens to you is you go through an era and you come along and Winning Colors is the darling of your life. And then Serena's Song comes along. And then Open Mind comes along. So you fall in the love with the one you took to the dance the last time.

And so when this one comes along, she's the most special one in the barn right now. There is no comparison. She's number one. They were number one when they had their turn.

She I think will go on to do things that -- staying healthy and everything, she will go on to do everything that some of these other good ones we had did.

Q. Just after this win, just how do you celebrate? What's the plan of the night? How do you enjoy this night?

D. WAYNE LUKAS: We usually go to Wendy's -- (laughter). We get the chili. And then we get the double cheeseburger. And Laurie cooks up a little pasta and we take the double cheeseburger and break it up into the chili and pour it over the pasta. And that's it (laughter).

Q. And will you buy the Mitchells something from the 99-cent menu?

ROB MITCHELL: And they will charge me $5.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: The Mitchells go to another restaurant, believe me.

ROB MITCHELL: That's not true.

JIM MULVIHILL: You had the scratch out of the Derby this morning. Can you talk about how this day sort of exemplifies the highs and lows of this sport?

D. WAYNE LUKAS: Again, I say you have to read the horse. I thought the last couple of days, Ethereal Road wasn't as sharp and wasn't as focused as he was earlier in the week. I ran him back.

I did a real ballsy move by running him back in seven days there. And in hindsight, I probably wouldn't do it. But it put him in the Derby anyhow by getting those extra two points. So that be it what it is.

I thought he was a little bit flat. I didn't think that he was moving as well. And I knew that if I ran him in the Derby that I would eliminate the Preakness in all consideration. It would just be too many all right in a row.

So I talked to the owner (Julie Gilbert/Aaron Sones). He was in Hawaii, couldn't be here anyhow. So he said do what you want to do, treat him like you own him. So we took him out. And we'll look at the Preakness in two weeks.

JIM MULVIHILL: That's so interesting. Scratching from the Derby is hardly a disappointment because you did the right thing of what's to come.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: Not at this stage in my career. We try to do exactly what's right for the horses.

All through the '80s, I used the Derby as a prep for the Preakness anyhow (laughter).

Q. So since you're not in tomorrow's race and you have connections to many former proteges, what are your thoughts on tomorrow's race? Do you have a horse to watch?

JIM MULVIHILL: Who do you like?

D. WAYNE LUKAS: I'm the world's worst handicapper. You don't want my advice if you are betting on horses. That's true of the jockeys and almost all the trainers. We're never objective enough to really do a good job.

I think that it's going to be a race that's going to spread out a little bit. I think there's about half of that race that's got, what we call, tactical speed. And I think it's going to spread out. I think the closers are going to have a real good chance tomorrow.

I don't think it's going to be bunched into that first turn like it is so many times.

The 20-horse field is the hardest thing that we overcome, without a doubt. It's not the 1 1/4 mile. It's not the first Saturday in May. The 20-horse field is where you get in trouble the most. That's one of the biggest hurdles.

Everybody tries to get to that clubhouse turn in good position. And we've got 20 riders. Five or six of them are in the hall of fame. Five of them should be bagging groceries at Kroger. You get a traffic jam. You get all kinds of problems. And it really compromises your chances.

I always tell my riders that they should be in position to win when they get to the track kitchen. That's over there at the 3/8 pole.

I told [Steve] Asmussen's assistant -- he said, What advice can you give me? I said be in position to win it at the track kitchen. That horse (Epicenter) has got a great chance.

Chad Brown's horse (Zandon) I like a lot, that won the Bluegrass.

I think you could pick about four, which all of us will do. And then there will be some that will really surprise you. Always is.

Q. We talked about the ride, this is Luis' [Saez] first time riding the filly in a race. Can you talk about Luis and the job he did.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: That was a tough one. That was a tough call. We're so fond of Luis Contreras that rode her. It was a good fit. We got into trouble in three of those races pretty much. And he knew it. We knew it. Rob knew it. So we evaluate everything we're at.

Now we're coming to this one here, 100-some thousand people here, the pressure on and so forth.

And Luis became available. And I've had great luck with Luis Saez, very much. He's won the Travers for us. He rode Will Take Charge in the (Breeder's Cup) Classic.

Luis and I have a great relationship. I was mentoring his brother when he was killed over at Delaware. So I have been close to that family, too. But it really was hard for me to make Luis Contreras off. Laurie and I talked about it. We thought so much of him. Every time I have led with my heart in racing, it's jumped up and bit me. This is a cold, hard game, and you have to make business decisions and not let your heart -- if you lead with your heart, you get in trouble. Every time.

Q. I think I saw Todd (Pletcher) waiting for you before you came into the tunnel. What was that conversation like? And to see a partner of yours wait for you that was in that race to have that conversation.

D. WAYNE LUKAS: That's how -- that's how it goes with all those guys that worked side by side with us and with me. He waited in the tunnel. He's second. He waits in the tunnel, hugged me, said he couldn't be prouder. I said I'm proud of you. We hugged, exchanged a few other words, very personal.

But those guys that were so influential in my career and carried me to where we are today, they put me on their shoulders and carried me. And I know it. I couldn't do it alone. I never could with all the horses we were training. So we're still very tight. It's a close-knit family.

We were in the box with Dallas Stewart. He almost broke my arm when the horse got right to the 1/16th pole.

Here's Todd [Pletcher] waiting in the tunnel. Ron Anderson who handled -- both he and [Jerry] Bailey and those horses that won for us in the Derby. Broke down in the tunnel hugging me. So it's a close-knit group. We got some great, great friendships going because of these horses.

JIM MULVIHILL: Congratulations to you all. We will let you get over to the Wendy's on Taylor.

We are joined by Luis Saez. The obvious place to start, we would just love to hear from your perspective how the ride went on Secret Oath. If you could take us through it.

LUIS SAEZ: She proved today that she's a Grade I filly. When we were working her, she did a pretty nice, pretty great. Today she had a wonderful break from the gate. And the key was we tried to follow the plan. And everything came perfect. When she came within half a mile, she started running. And down the stretch she's a lot of horse and she just kept going.

JIM MULVIHILL: Were you impressed or surprised at how she ranged up on the leaders when she got to the lead? It looked like she did that pretty effortlessly.

LUIS SAEZ: I was pretty surprised. Today she did it pretty quick. And that's pretty special with her. I rode a lot of good fillies, but this one is pretty special. And the good thing for me, I'm pretty -- it's an honor to be a part of Mr. Wayne [Lukas] because he's a legend. And we win a lot of big races for him, the Travers. And win the Oaks for him, it was like everything for us. So pretty grateful to be a part.

JIM MULVIHILL: You always know a horse is traveling well when you see your rider look back a couple times, and you took a couple peeks coming to the 1/4 pole. What were you thinking in that moment?

LUIS SAEZ: I was thinking about somebody else coming to range with her, but she just kept going. And I was pretty confident at that point.

She crossed the wire and kept galloping pretty strong. Looked like she could run all day.

JIM MULVIHILL: This is your first time riding her in the afternoon, but you've been on in the mornings in the last few weeks. What had you felt coming into the race? And how were you feeling about your chances?

LUIS SAEZ: Well, Mr. Kiaran [McLaughlin], my agent, called me one day and he said, Luis, I think we have a chance to ride a pretty special filly, her name is Secret Oath. I couldn't believe it because it was Mr. Wayne [Lukas], and we've been pretty close. He's like -- I have a lot of respect for him.

And he decided to give me the opportunity. So he told my agent he want me to go work the filly. And the first time when I get on her and I see the filly, she's have so much muscle and she's big. And I was like, wow, she's a very nice filly.

So she worked pretty easy. She worked magnificent. She just blown my mind. I was like, jeez, she's a very special filly. So I called my agent right away. I told him I said I think she's the Oaks winner. He said, Just cross fingers. And she proved today.

JIM MULVIHILL: She ran hard, of course. She ran fast. But Wayne [Lukas] suggested it wasn't the most taxing kind of effort. What did you feel after the wire? What was your impression of just what the race might have taken out of her and whether she could bounce back in a couple weeks for a classic run at Pimlico?

LUIS SAEZ: She did it pretty easy. I remember at half a mile, I saw everybody in the lead pretty far. And two jumps I was right there. She did it so easy. So I was like, wow, she's going to win easy.

I was having a lot of patience and wait because I don't want to take a lot from her. I don't want to beat her up either. She just went home. She's a pretty special filly. I'm so proud and glad to be a part, really.

JIM MULVIHILL: And the Oaks itself, what does winning this race to you?

LUIS SAEZ: It means a lot. This is one magnificent day today. And a big race. I never imagined I'm going to be here.

But we're here, and we're so blessed to be here. I am really happy. Special for my family, for Mr. Wayne because he's a legend. And he's big for us.

JIM MULVIHILL: You should know that Wayne [Lukas] spoke affectionately about the relationship he's had with you and the fondness that he had for your brother (Juan Saez) as well. More of your thoughts on Wayne and that relationship that he's had with you over the years.

LUIS SAEZ: Wayne is a guy that he always teaches stuff and tries to help you and about life and how things are going. I love to hear from him. It's special from him. I look at him like a legend, like a guy that he really loved the sport and he give all his life to the sport. So that's pretty magnificent for him. That's what we should do. Everybody should do because we love the horses and we love the sport. It's just a joy.

Q. With that five-wide pack, how many strategies did you have in mind in terms of trying to get the horse to lead? You got clear of Echo Zulu. But what was your strategy after getting past Yuugiri?

LUIS SAEZ: We have a lot of strategy. When the draw came out and we have the 1 hole, there was a little worry because the 1 hole is not a place, especially here, because everybody break fast and go down and you got a lot of bumps.

But today we just tried to have a good break and let everybody go to the lead and just follow the speed and look for the No. 4 (Nest) and just follow her because she know she's going to take off there.

And I remember riding in the turn, we saw Nest and we just followed him. And she took us there. And that was the best part of the race because at that point we know we have a big chance to win the race.

JIM MULVIHILL: Luis, congratulations again. Thanks for coming down.

LUIS SAEZ: It's an honor for me to be here.